



HJ0062

LRB101 11867 ALS 58852 r

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the Illinois General Assembly pays honor and respect to veterans who have served their country and the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Private Snell was a member of the 136th Infantry, 33rd division of the United States Army; he entered into service on April 22, 1942 and was stationed at various camps in the United States until he went overseas on July 5, 1943; he served in the New Guinea and Philippine campaigns and returned to the United States on November 4, 1945; he was honorably discharged at Camp Grant on November 24, 1945; and

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WHEREAS, On May 6, 1945, the 136th Infantry was met by heavy mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire from the flanks and from caves on the reverse slope; as it reached the crest of the hill, a machine gun on the right flank opened fire and wounded four men; Private Snell moved forward alone and destroyed the weapon and its crew; he then directed his fellow soldiers in destroying three Japanese strong points; although wounded himself, he led his fellow soldiers forward, secured the enemy positions, captured the hill, and only then allowed himself to be evacuated; and

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WHEREAS, On June 9, 1946, Private Snell was awarded the

1 Distinguished Service Cross, the army's second highest award
2 for conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty;
3 along with the cross, he received the Good Conduct Medal, the
4 American Campaign Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two
5 Bronze Battle Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with one
6 Bronze Battle Star, and the Purple Heart; and

7 WHEREAS, Private Snell displayed inspiring leadership,
8 indomitable fighting spirit, and heroic effort despite his
9 wounds; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
12 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, That we designate the

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14 Utica River Bridge as the "Ralph E. Snell Memorial Bridge"; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
17 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
18 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
19 giving notice of the name of the "Ralph E. Snell Memorial
20 Bridge"; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
22 presented to the family of Private Ralph E. Snell and the

1 Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation.